

Amendments to the Claims

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) A device for removing proteases from biological fluids and pharmaceutical solutions comprising a housing having a fluid inlet and a fluid outlet, said housing containing a plurality of membranes arranged therein in series, wherein said membranes each consist essentially of a ~~an~~ an epoxy-functionalized microporous membrane body containing functional epoxy groups chemically coupled to at least one protease inhibitor ~~that is capable of selectively binding a protease selected from the group consisting of an acidic protease, a metalloprotease, a cysteine protease and a serine protease, said serine protease inhibitor being selected from the group consisting of pepstatin, bestatin, diprotin, antipain, chymostatin, leupeptin, E64, TLCK and p-aminobenzamidine.~~

12-13. (canceled)

14. The device of claim 11 wherein said membranes each contain two different protease inhibitors.

15. (currently amended) A method for removing proteases from fluids comprising feeding a protease-containing fluid to the device of ~~any of claims~~ claim 11, ~~13 or 14.~~

16. (canceled)